



BAS/NOC Merger  
**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

TEMPLATE FOR RESPONSES

Deadline for response **Wednesday 10 October 2012.**

Please send responses (hard copy or by e-mail) to:

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Organisation: Royal Astronomical Society

Please enter any comments or suggestions under the headings below. You need only answer those sections that are of particular interest or concern to you or your organisation

**SECTION 1: Vision and Mission of the Centre**

The Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) has around 3700 members (Fellows) working in or in areas related to the fields of astronomy, space science and geophysics. The Society works to advance these sciences and so we take a keen interest in decisions that may have an impact on the capability of British scientists to carry out research in these disciplines. We would therefore welcome the opportunity to be involved with further consultations relating to both this and other NERC proposals.

Our affiliated UK Solar Physics (UKSP) and Magnetosphere Ionosphere Solar Terrestrial (MIST) groups will send in separate submissions covering specific issues for researchers in these areas.

In the light of the proposed merger the Society wishes to stress the world-class strength of solid-Earth geophysics and solar-terrestrial physics research in the UK and therefore urges NERC to reflect these in the vision and mission of the new facility. We welcome the commitment to scientific excellence and trust that this will underpin the decision making process and implementation of the proposal if it goes ahead.

**SECTION 2: Aims and Objectives of the Merger**

**SECTION 3: Scientific, Economic and Societal Impact Opportunities**

**SECTION 4: Name of the new Centre**

**SECTION 5: Governance and Management**

## **SECTION 6: Large Research Infrastructure**

### **Any Other Comments, including on questions such as:**

1. What do you think is the major opportunity that would result from the proposed merger?
2. What do you think is the major risk that may arise from the proposed merger?

A key area of concern for the RAS is that the merger should not compromise the quality of science being carried out at both BAS and NOC. Any reorganisation must retain both the skill set of the people currently employed by and the scientific infrastructure operated by these bodies, with both of these are vital components for effective delivery of the science itself.

3. What are the features of the British Antarctic Survey that you think it is most important to preserve if the merger takes place?
4. What are the features of the National Oceanography Centre that you think it is most important to preserve if the merger takes place?